

[2 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

- (4) Promotion of clean coal technologies
 - (5) Coal washing & efficient utilization of coal
 - (6) Afforestation and conservation of forests
 - (7) Reduction of gas flaring
 - (8) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
 - (9) Encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems (10)
- Environmental quality management

**Financial assistance for development of
forests**

485. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals/schemes submitted by the various States seeking financial assistance for development of forests during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the time by when the pending proposals are likely to be cleared by Government and the reasons for the delay in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is the major scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for development of forests. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set-up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), 431 FDA projects have been approved to treat 4.46 lakh hectares area through 13,710 JFMCs. The State-wise number of FDA projects approved during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) and pending FDA project proposals are given in the Statement (See below). The pending proposals will be approved subject to their suitability according to the Guidelines of the NAP Scheme and the availability of funds.

Statement

Number of FDA project proposals approved during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06)

(As on 31.03.2006)

SI. No.	Name of State	No. of FDA Project proposals approved	No. of Pending project proposals
1	2	3	4
1 2	Andhra Pradesh	19	1
	Arunachal Pradesh	11	
3	Assam	29	—
4	Bihar	10	—
5	Chhattisgarh	20	—
6	Goa	3	—
7	Gujarat	13	1
8	Haryana	9	—
9	Himachal Pradesh	24	2
10	Jammu & Kashmir	12	—
11	Jharkhand	27	3
12	Karnataka	15	—
13	Kerala	18	1
14 15	Madhya Pradesh	24	—
	Maharashtra	33	
16	Manipur	6	1
17	Meghalaya	7	—
18	Mizoram	1	11
19	Nagaland	3	2

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1	2	3	4
20	Orissa	16	1
21	Punjab	8	5
22	Rajasthan	26	—
23	Sikkim	1	—
24	Tamil Nadu	20	—
25	Tripura	3	1
26	Uttar Pradesh	28	1
27	Uttaranchal	33	3
28	West Bengal	12	1
TOTAL:		431	34

Great Indian Bustard

486. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis Nigriceps*), once the pride of Rajasthan is quickly and quietly sliding closer to extinction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this endangered resident bird is now rarely seen, that too only in winter seasons;

(c) whether it is also a fact that habitat destruction and half hearted conservation attempts by the State Government are some of the reasons behind the vanishing numbers; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the endangered bird from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b)As reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan, a decline in the population of the Great Indian Bustard has been observed in some of the natural habitats of Rajasthan. However, the bird can be frequently seen throughout the year in the Desert National Park & Sanctuary and its satellite areas.